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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/286,480	04/05/1999	YOSUKE SUZUKI	450100-4842	5049

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EXAMINER

JOSEPH, THOMAS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/286,480

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J Joseph

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Using Netscape 2* by Mark R. Brown (c)1995.

Claim 1 is rejected. The Applicant cites, “a character-information detecting means for detecting character information recorded in an information control area of said recording medium and reproduced by said playback means” in claim 1. *Using Netscape 2* teaches storing audio files that can be reproduced by a play back means (p. 10). The technology taught by Netscape is a type of detecting means for detecting character information recorded in an information control area of said recording medium and reproduced by said playback means. The web address, written in character form, is recorded in an information control area of a recording medium. This memory area on which this web address is stored is a recording medium. The web page, which it addresses, is a playback means associated with the address. Netscape suggests, teaches, or discloses, “a character-information detecting means for detecting character information recorded in an information control area of said recording medium and reproduced by said playback means” as cited by the Applicant. Netscape teaches a “character-string” in the form of “character-string searching means for searching

character information detected by said character-information detecting means for a string of characters representing address information," as cited by claim 1. The web address box taught by Netscape demonstrates character string searching (*Using Netscape 2*, p. 438, fig. 17.3). The box also detects addresses (*Using Netscape 2*, p. 438, fig. 17.3). If the user enters a string that does not represent a valid address, an error would be displayed on the computer display. *Using Netscape 2* teaches, "an address-information generating means for generating address information means," as cited by claim 1 (*Using Netscape 2*, p. 438, fig. 17.3). The web page demonstrates an address-information generating means for generating address information. Once the address is entered into the address input box, a searching means is activated. *Using Netscape 2* teaches "an apparatus for processing a playback signal," as cited by claim 1 (*Using Netscape 2*, p. 438, fig. 17.3). The method for downloading audio data (p. 438) requires a software and hardware forming apparatus that handles some type of playback signal being disseminated from readable medium. *Using Netscape 2* suggests or teaches providing play back hardware (p. 438). Information including programs and character information associated with said programs is the text button for accessing texts associated with audio data. The information associated with this audio source can be considered originating from a "remote source". Since the claim language fails to define the remoteness of the said "remote source", this said "remote source" could be any subcomponent within the system distinct from the actual input or output device accessible to the user. Further, a reference to the Internet inherently teaches accessing a remote data source. *Using Netscape 2* teaches storing information for a

string of characters representing address information pertaining to either a URL used to obtain program information associated with said programs or an electronic mail address (p. 438, fig. 17.3). When the user selects the URL, a search of the Internet takes place that involves the matching of the character data listed with character based URLs available on the Internet.

Claim 2 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches an address box for displaying a human readable address (p. 162, fig. 7.14). This address is “a display means for displaying said character information, ... for displaying said address information in a format different from formats of other character information on the said display” as cited by the Applicant. *Using Netscape 2* demonstrates the display of “a display means for displaying said character information, ... for displaying said address information in a format different from formats of other character information on the said display” as cited by the Applicant (p. 162, fig. 7.14). The character-based information located outside the address box is associated with the web page. The use of various fonts, which differ from the web address, demonstrates the use of different types of formats for displaying character information.

Claim 5 is rejected. The icons taught by *Using Netscape 2* are used for opening other web pages. These web pages have their own code, which equates as a software program. Further, the web address box (fig. 7.3) is used for activating an operation for activating various web addresses. These addresses are a means for “activating other software associated with said address information displayed on said display means,” as cited by the Applicant in claim 5.

Claim 6 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the rationale for a playback signal in rejected claim 1. The method for processing address data taught by *Using Netscape 2* (p. 151, fig. 7.3) requires the use of software. All search software requires the "memory means for storing character information reproduced from a recording medium" as cited by the Applicant in claim 6. The web addresses taught by *Using Netscape 2* (p. 151, fig. 7.3) uses a "search means for searching said character information stored in said memory means for a string of characters representing address information" as cited by the Applicant in claims 6. This operation takes place during every Internet search and during every request for a web page from the Internet. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the rationale for displaying a "control means for displaying information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information in accordance with a search result output by said search means on a display means along with said character information," as cited by the applicant in claim 6 in rejected claim 1.

Claim 7 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the rationale of claim 7 in rejected claim 4.

Claim 8 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the rationale of claim 8 in rejected claim 5.

Claim 9 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the rationale of claim 9 in rejected claim 1.

Claim 10 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the rationale of claim 10 in rejected claim 6.

Claim 11 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the rationale of claim 11 in rejected claim 4.

Claim 12 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches a method wherein said address information is included in said character information, said address information is displayed on said display means along with said character information in a format different from a format of said character information (p. 151, fig. 7.3).

Claim 13 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches having a step of activating predetermined application software in accordance with an input operation carried out for said information displayed on said display means to indicate whether or not said address information is included in said character information (p. 151, fig. 7.3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Using Netscape 2*.

Claim 3 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the display of a net address (p. 438, fig. 17.3). *Using Netscape 2* inherently suggest, teach, or disclose an apparatus wherein said "display control means displays information indicating whether or not character information recorded in said recording medium includes address information

on said display means” as cited by the Applicant. The displayed address in the said figure is recorded on a recording medium. Main memory is a type of recording medium.

Using Netscape 2 does suggest the need for providing an error message when the user enters a false address by providing an input line for entering address data. The *Using Netscape 2* text fails to teach providing an error message when a user attempts to enter a false address. The Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that computer systems output an error message when the user enters false data such as false addresses. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine providing an error message when a user enters false information such as a false address with the browser taught by *Using Netscape 2*. Doing so prevents computer crashing when erroneous data is entered into a computer system while informing the user that input data fails to match the selectable possibilities on a network, database, or other computer system.

Claim 4 is rejected. *Using Netscape 2* teaches the display of various buttons that include icons (p. 151, fig. 7.3). The use of these icons at least suggest, teach, or disclose a “display means by said display control means to indicate whether or not character information recorded in said recording medium includes address information is an icon” as cited by the Applicant in claim 4. These icons include alphanumeric characters. Therefore they are considered address information in the form of an icon.

Response to Arguments

5. The Applicant’s arguments filed 11-18-2002 with respect to claims 1 – 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J Joseph whose telephone number is 703-305-3917. The examiner can normally be reached Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

tjj

December 4, 2002

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
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